



State of New Jersey

ESSEX COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER

ESSEX HOUSE

461.463 CENTRAL AVENUE  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07107

CAROLYN ABBOA-OFFEI  
SUPERINTENDENT

TELEPHONE  
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December 9, 1982

State Senator Wynona Lipman  
50 Park Place, Suite 938  
Newark, N.J. 07102

Dear Senator Lipman,

Essex Community Service Center-Essex House, is a half-way house for women offenders that is a part of the State Department of Corrections. It is the only program in the State that is designed specifically to meet the needs of women. We have served a total of 62 women since our opening on April 29, 1981.

In addition to twenty-four hour housing, and meals, our services include counseling, job readiness skills, and courses in life skills such as Effective Parenting, Budgeting, and First-Aid, to name a few. Our residents are also given assistance with finding employment. All of them find jobs prior to being paroled, and are required to save a portion of their earnings. When paroled from this facility our residents return to the community with a place to live, improved family relations, a job and a moderate bank account.

This program has been cited by Governor Kean for termination as of January 1st, 1983, due to budgetary constraints. Several officials of the City of Newark worked for years with the Department of Corrections to see this program realized. We have benefited from the moral support and direct assistance provided by officials, by organizations within the larger community as well as by our immediate neighbors. They are disturbed by the pending termination of this program, the only one of its kind in the State.

The continued existence of Essex House is an investment in the community that is sorely needed.

Sincerely yours,

*Carolyn Abboa-Offei*  
Carolyn Abboa-Offei  
Superintendent ESSEX HOUSE

CAO:dc  
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